



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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2 FEBRUARY 1966

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1. Vietnam

Hanoi's defense minister, Vo Nguyen Giap, asserts that the Vietnamese Communists can win even if more than 700,000 American troops are sent into South Vietnam. Giap was the author of similar assurances published in July of 1964 and 1965.

In the present analysis, Giap acknowledges that the US has shifted to a "new strategic stage" in which US forces do the "core" of the fighting. He admits that the US has great material strength. His prediction of victory is based on the idea that this strength cannot be brought to bear fully on the situation in Vietnam.

He argues that the number of troops Washington can send is limited by a variety of factors. Also, he says, the morale of the troops already deployed is low, and they are neither organized nor trained to deal successfully with a peoples' war.

Giap finds backing for this analysis in the fact that the pace of Viet Cong activity has mounted in the face of increased US participation. To Giap's way of thinking, the Viet Cong still hold the initiative and can now fight large-scale actions as well as small ones. Stepped-up air raids cannot isolate the "southern battlefield."

Giap has made almost all of these points before, and Hanoi probably does not overestimate them in its own military planning. The regime does find their restatement by the conqueror of the French useful in bucking up Communist forces both in North and South Vietnam.



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2. Vietnam

Satellite photography taken 20-24 January turned up 63 MIG fighters at two previously unoccupied fields, Yunnan and Pei-tun in southwest China (see map).

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3. Communist China

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4. Nationalist China

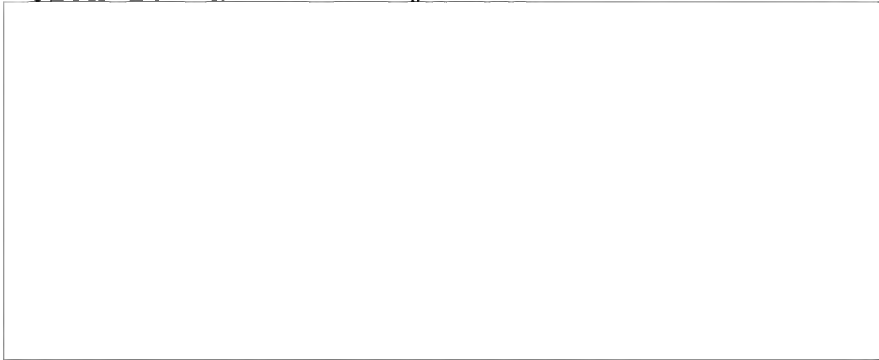
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5. Soviet Union

The latest satellite photography shows that some of the single silo launchers for intercontinental ballistic missiles are at least externally complete. They have been under construction for about two years.



6. Cyprus

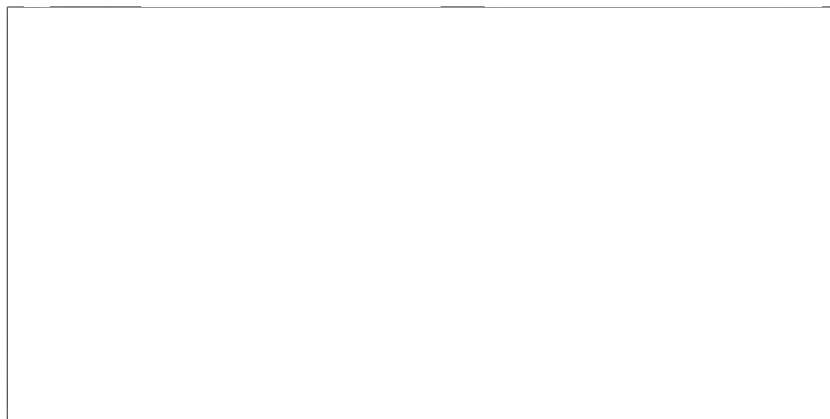
Greek Cypriots are filling their newspapers with stories aimed at showing that morale is slipping badly among the Turkish Cypriots and that the latter are on the point of surrendering on Greek terms. The government in Nicosia is obviously coaching this psychological effort.

Though the picture of crumbling Turkish resolve is highly overdrawn, there are some signs that the Turkish minority is becoming somewhat less intransigent.

If the Turkish community could be given some sort of guarantee against a Cypriot union with Greece, it is just conceivable that a new mediation effort might succeed.

7. Cuba

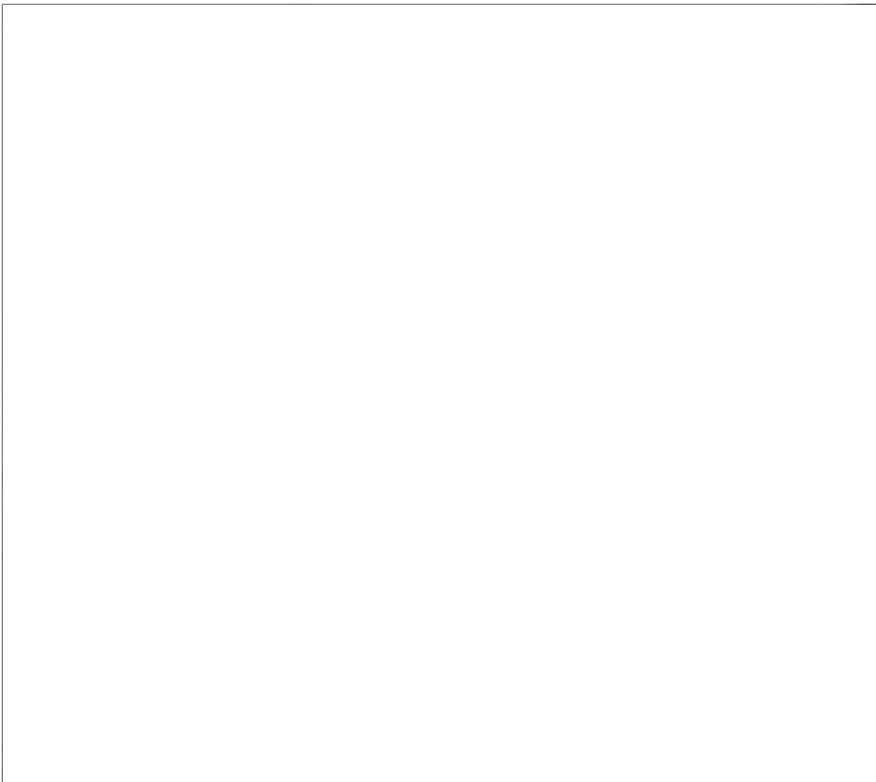
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8. West Germany



9. Dominican Republic

The military leaders are, if anything, even more rigid this week against accepting the command changes ordered by the president nearly a month ago. Garcia Godoy and Ambassador Bunker agree that action to force the issue may soon be required.

The use of Inter-American troops to force Rivera Caminero out may be the only way, but efforts to reach a less drastic solution will still be tried for another day or two.

Garcia Godoy is offering additional concessions to the military in what may prove to be his last effort to bring about Rivera Caminero's voluntary departure. The president says he would now be willing to retain the service chiefs and allow Rivera Caminero to designate his own successor as defense minister. There is as yet no word on reaction to this concession.

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